

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,296,288 to Kourtides et al., Sawko et al., *Effects of Weave Architecture on Aeroacoustic Performance of Ceramic Insulation Blankets* (1993), (hereinafter Swako), and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0152769 to Kitagawa et al. Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kourtides, Swako, Kitagawa, and U.S. Patent No. 4,151,800 to Dotts et al. Claim 4 has been rejected unpatentable over the combination of Kourtides, Swako, Kitagawa, and U.S. Patent No. 4,255,817 to Hiem.

To further clarify the invention, Claim 1 has been amended to include the steps of needling poly(1,3-phenylene isophthalamide) fibers into the first felt layer and forming a gradient in the first felt layer wherein the first felt layer has a higher percentage of PBZ fibers in a region adjacent to the OML surface of the first felt than a region adjacent the IML surface of the first felt. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 5, line 12 through page 6, line 5.

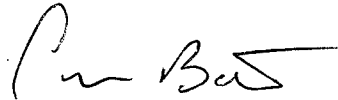
None of Kourtides, Swako, Kitagawa, Dotts or Heim disclose or suggest a method of fabricating an insulation that includes the step of needling poly(1,3-phenylene isophthalamide) fibers into the first felt layer, or the step of forming a gradient in the first felt layer wherein the first felt layer has a higher percentage of PBZ fibers in a region adjacent to the OML surface of the first felt than a region adjacent the IML surface of the first felt. Accordingly, any combination of the cited references fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Thus, Claim 1 and any claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references, and it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been overcome.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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